



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAMP VERDE RESIDENT CHARGED WITH LARCENY ON YAVAPAI-APACHE RESERVATION

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a one count indictment against DEBRA L. TELESE, 49, of Camp Verde, Arizona.

The indictment alleges that TELESE stole over \$164,000 in cash, within the territorial limits of the Yavapai-Apache Indian Reservation. TELESE is alleged to have stolen the money from Ernie's Smoke Shop and Minimart, Store #1, during the period from August, 2001, through November, 2001. TELESE will appear for an arraignment before United States Magistrate Judge Morton Sitver in Phoenix on April 10, 2002.

The federal indictment charges TELESE with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Sections 1153 and 661, Crimes Committed on an Indian Reservation and Larceny.

A conviction for larceny carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Yavapai-Apache Nation Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by John Joseph Tuchi, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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